



A large portion of the pavement on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue is occupied by construction materials. The contractor of the metro rail project has put up a warning sign around the construction material. Risking their lives, commuters are walking on the busy road. The photo was taken yesterday at the Sonargaon intersection.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

WORKPLACE HARASSMENTS

Barring women from unlocking potential

Consultation told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a consultation yesterday said harassment against women in the workplace needs to be addressed properly as the unprofessional conduct bars them from unlocking their full potential.

The malpractices -- unwanted touch, intimidation and marginalisation by the male colleagues -- also take a psychological toll on women in the workplace, they said.

Alongside the government, factory and industry owners have to take a lead in finding out the root causes behind the practices and take a prompt action through formulating policies, they added.

CARE Bangladesh arranged the consultation on "Workplace Harassment against Women" at a city hotel in the capital, where representatives from both government and non-government organisations took part.

Delivering the welcome speech, CARE Bangladesh Country Director Zia Choudhury said workplace harassment is a longstanding, serious and complex issue.

Nazma Akter, an activist of garment workers' rights and executive director of AWAJ Foundation, said awareness has to be created among people to make them understand the behavioural

attitude that can be determined as harassment.

Referring to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Survey-2015, Maheen Sultan, visiting fellow of Brac Institute of Governance and Development, said over 27 percent women of the country said they had experienced violence in their lifetimes.

Speaking as a special guest, Shoko Ishikawa, country representative of UN Women Bangladesh, said the government has to recognise factors behind workplace harassment for its remedy.

Enabling environment for women in the workplace is essential, she said.

Sabina Sultana, senior programme officer, Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, said among various initiatives, they have a hotline number -- "109".

Any woman can seek help round-the-clock against torture and violence by calling the number.

She also said they were working to launch a mobile app.

Tayabul Islam, joint secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, also spoke.

Insulate power lines to prevent electrocution

HC orders DPDC, asks state to explain why family of 7-year-old victim should not get Tk 1cr in compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) to ensure in 60 days that its power lines are electrically insulated to prevent electrocution in Jigatola area of Dhaka.

The bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah, in response to a writ petition, also ordered Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities to bear the treatment expenses of Rafsan Noor -- a seven-year-old who was electrocuted by an 11,000-volt stray wire at Jigatola -- from state funds.

In addition, the HC issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks as to why they should not be directed to compensate Tk 1

crore to the family of the victim (Rafsan).

The HC in its rule asked them to show causes why their failure to set up safe electrical lines at Jigatola should not be declared illegal.

The order and rule were issued after Rafsan's father Advocate KM Rezaul Firoj filed the writ petition.

Advocates Amit Das Gupta and Muntasir Mahmud Rahman appeared for the petitioner.

Muntasir told The Daily Star that on November 27, Rafsan suffered 20 percent burn injury after he came in touch with an exposed live wire as he tried to catch a bird through the window of his house at Jigatola near Dhanmondi. He is now undergoing treatment at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he added.

HC clears way for BNP mayoral candidate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



RANGPUR CITY CORPORATION POLLS

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for BNP mayoral candidate Kawsar Zaman Babla to contest the Rangpur City Corporation election to be held on December 21.

The bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque dropped from the hearing list a writ petition filed challenging the legality of the candidacy of Kawsar, also vice president of Rangpur city BNP unit.

Kawsar's lawyer Barrister Bodruddoza Badal told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for his client to vie for the mayoral post following the HC order.

The HC bench passed the order as it did not want to interfere in the issue of candidature of Kawsar considering that the election will be held within a short period of time, he added.

He said Sonali Bank filed the writ petition with the HC seeking its order upon the Election Commission to suspend Kawsar's candidature on charge of loan default.

Earlier, on November 26, the returning officer of Rangpur

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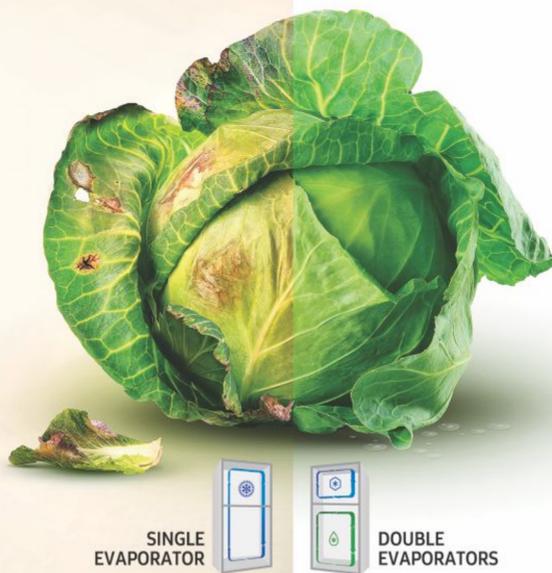
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BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017

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26 - 30 December 2017
Abahani Grounds . Dhaka . Bangladesh

Day 1: Tuesday 26 December

Dr L Subramaniam & Astana Symphony Philharmonic Orchestra
Sitar by Rajrupa Chowdhury
Khayal by Vidushi Padma Talwalkar
Sitar by Firoz Khan
Khayal by Supriya Das, Bengal Parampara Sangeetaly
Flute by Rakesh Chaurasia and Sitar by Purbayan Chatterjee

Registration opens on
18 December



Day 2: Wednesday 27 December

Kathak by Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company
Tabla by Students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetaly
Santoor by Pandit Shivkumar Sharma
Khayal by Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar
Sitar by Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan
Dhrupad by Avijit Kundu, Bengal Parampara Sangeetaly
Flute by Pandit Ronu Majumdar and
Sarod by Pandit Debojyoti Bose

Day 3: Thursday 28 December

Sitar by Students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetaly
Ghatam & Kanjeera by Vidwan Vikku Vinayakram and
Selvaganesh Vinayakram
Khayal by Students of Govt Music College
Sarod by Abir Hossain
Flute by Gazi Abdul Hakim
Dhrupad by Pandit Uday Bhawalkar
Violin by Vidushi Kala Ramnath
Khayal by Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty

Day 4: Friday 29 December

Nritya Chirantan: Manipuri, Bharatnatyam and
Kathak dance recital by **Sweetie Das, Amit Chowdhury, Snata Shahrin, Sudeshna Swayamprabha, Mehraj Haque** and **Zuairiyah Mouli**
Sarod by Students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetaly
Khayal by **Ustad Rashid Khan**
Sarod by **Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar** and
Violin by **Dr Mysore Manjunath**
Khayal by **Pandit Jasraj**
Cello by **Saskia Rao de-Haas**
Sitar by **Pandit Budhaditya Mukherjee**

Day 5: Saturday 30 December

Odissi by **Vidushi Sujata Mohapatra**
Mohan Veena by **Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt**
Khayal by **Brajeswar Mukherjee**
Sitar by **Pandit Kushal Das** and **Kalyanjit Das**
Flute by **Pandit Kaivalyakumar**
Flute by **Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia**

Matters related to the event are subject to change without prior notice